

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 129021
ORIGIN HA-05

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00
AID-05 ICA-11 /055 R

DRAFTED BY HA/ORM:WGMETSON,JR:MM
APPROVED BY HA/ORM:JLCARLIN
HA/ORM:LAMARINELLI
HA/ORM:SCLOWMAN
AF/I:WLEWIS

-----074033 212328Z /15

R 212209Z MAY 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
INFO USMISSION GENEVA
AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS:SREF

SUBJECT:REFUGEES IN THE SUDAN

1. DEPARTMENT IS RECEIVING INQUIRIES ABOUT THE REFUGEE SITUATION IN THE SUDAN AND EXPECTS MORE INTEREST AS THE CIVIL WAR PROCEEDS IN ETHIOPIA. POST MAY RECALL THAT WHEN HA/ORM OFFICER METSON VISITED KHARTOUM IN JUNE LAST YEAR HE WAS NOT PERMITTED TO GO TO REFUGEE CAMPS, BUT WAS GIVEN ACCESS TO RESPONSIBLE GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS AND UNHCR. FROM DISCUSSIONS IN KHARTOUM AND GENEVA, IT APPEARED THAT UNHCR WAS ON TOP OF SITUATION TO EXTENT FINANCES PERMITTED AND USG MADE SMALL CONTRIBUTION TO UNHCR TO ALLEVIATE REFUGEE EDUCATIONAL PROBLEM IN KHARTOUM.

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2. HOWEVER, A GROUP FROM INDIANA, WHICH VISITED ONE CAMP IN LATE AUGUST, REPORTEDLY ESCORTED BY SUDAN GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS, FOUND FOOD IN EXCEEDINGLY SHORT SUPPLY, NO MILK FOR CHILDREN, "STARVING PEOPLE AND CHILDREN WITH BLOATED BELLIES" AND CHILDREN WITH "MASSIVE INFECTIONS" ETC.. THE GROUP, WHICH APPARENTLY CONTACTED THE AMBASSADOR, HAS FORMED AN ASSOCIATION, PROJECT MERCY, WHICH HAS LAUNCHED AN APPEAL FOR

FUNDS TO PURCHASE AND MAINTAIN A TRUCK TO TRANSPORT FOOD FROM PORT SUDAN TO REFUGEE CAMPS. IN THEIR APPEAL THIS GROUP STATES THAT ACCORDING TO A LETTER RECEIVED FROM THE CAMP IN MID-DECEMBER NOTHING MORE HAD REACHED THEM SINCE AUGUST. THE CAMP THEY VISITED APPEARS TO BE ONE HOLDING 8,000 REFUGEES OUTSIDE GEDAREF. THIS MATERIAL WAS SENT TO DEPARTMENT BY CONGRESSMAN DAN QUAYLE. THE GROUP FROM INDIANA CONSISTED OF MARTA GABRE-TSADICK, DEMEKE TEKLE-WOLD, MR. AND MRS. DONALD RUEGSEGGER AND MRS. CHARLES F. DICKINSON.

3. DEPARTMENT WOULD APPRECIATE EMBASSY AND UNHCR COMMENT ON ABOVE. CLARK GROUP, WHICH WAS IN SUDAN ABOUT SAME TIME AS INDIANA GROUP, BUT UNABLE TO VISIT CAMPS, COMMENTED EXTENSIVELY ON TRANSPORTATION PROBLEMS, BUT DID NOT INDICATE ANY SERIOUS MALNUTRITION OR MEDICAL PROBLEMS IN ITS REPORT. ARE REFUGEES ARRIVING FROM ETHIOPIA SERIOUSLY MALNOURISHED?

4. PRESUME METSON AND CLARK GROUP RESTRICTED BECAUSE THEY USG OFFICIALS. DEPARTMENT IS PREPARING TO SEND A REQUIREMENTS MISSION TO REVIEW AID TO AFRICAN REFUGEES AND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM RECOMMENDATIONS, IS SUBJECT OF SEPTTEL. VISIT OF THIS TEAM TO MAJOR REFUGEE AREA WILL BE HIGHLY DESIRABLE.

5. HA DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY HAS RECEIVED A LETTER FROM FRAN P. HOSKEN INFORMING HIM THAT SHE HAS ASKED MS. BARBARA WEIL-TILLNER TO MAKE A REPORT ON WOMEN REFUGEES LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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FROM ETHIOPIA IN THE SUDAN AND SUGGESTED TO MS. WEIL-TILLNER THAT SHE CALL ON UNHCR AND EMBASSY AND POSSIBLY GET THE UNHCR REP AND/OR AN EMBASSY OFFICER TO GO WITH HER TO A CAMP. WE DO NOT KNOW NATIONALITY OF MS. WEIL-TILLNER BUT SHE WAS GOING FROM GERMANY TO KHARTOUM ABOUT FIRST WEEK IN MAY SO MAY BE GERMAN AND PROBABLY HAS ALREADY ARRIVED. FRAN P. HOSKEN IS THE EDITOR OF WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL NETWORK NEWS (WIN NEWS) WHICH PRINTS OR REPRINTS "ALL THE NEWS THAT IS FIT TO PRINT BY, FOR AND ABOUT WOMEN". IT APPEARS FROM HER LETTER THAT THE FOCUS OF MS. WEIL-TILLNER'S INQUIRY WILL BE THE WELFARE OF ETHIOPIAN WOMEN REFUGEES IN CAMPS IN THE SUDAN MANY OF WHOM SHE REPORTS AS BEING IN DESPERATE CIRCUMSTANCES.

6. EMBASSY'S REPORTING WILL BE APPRECIATED. VANCE

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